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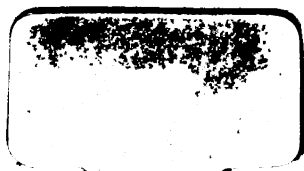
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The story of Gunnlaug the Worm-tongue and  
Raven the Skald. Even as Ari Thorgilson the  
learned/ the priest/ hath told it/ Who Was the man  
of all Iceland most learned in tales of the land's  
inhabiting and in lore of time ago.

Chapter i. Of Thorseim Egilson and his kin.



Here Was a man called  
Thorseim/ the son of  
Egil/ the son of Skall-  
lagrim/ the son of  
Rekdult the Bersir/  
of Norway. Alserd  
Was the mother of  
Thorseim: she Was  
the daughter of Biorn  
Hold. Thorseim  
dwelt at Burg in  
Burg-firth: he Was Wealthy of fee/ and a great  
chief/ a Wise man/ meek and of measure in all  
Ways. He Was nought of such Wondrous growth  
and strength as his father Egil had been: yet  
Was he a right mighty man/ and much beloved  
of all folk. Thorseim Was goodly to look on/  
flaxen-haired/ and the best-eyed of men: and so  
say

say men of lore that many of the kin of the Mett-  
men/ Who are come of Egil/ have been the good-  
liest of folk: yet/ for all that/ this kindred have  
differed much herin/ for it is said that some of them  
have been accounted the most ill-favored of men:  
but in that kin have been also many men of great  
proWess in many Wise/ such as Riartan the son  
of Olaf Peacock/ and Slaying-Bardi/ and  
Skuli the son of Thorstein. Some have been great  
bards/ too/ in that kin/ as Biorn/ the champion  
of Hit-dale/ priest Einar Skulifon/ Snorri Star-  
kufon/ and many others. Now/ Thorstein had to  
Wife Iofrid/ the daughter of Gunnar/ the son of  
Hlifar. This Gunnar Was the best skilled in  
Weapons/ and the lithest of limb of all bonder-  
folk Who have been in Iorland: the second Was  
Gunnar of Litthend: but Scrimthor of Ere Was  
the third. Iofrid Was eighteen Winters old When  
Thorstein Wedded her: she Was a Widow/ for  
Thorodd/ son of Odd of Tongue/ had had her to  
Wife aforetime. Their daughter Was Hungerd/  
Who Was brought up at Thorstein's at Harg.  
Iofrid Was a very stirring Woman: she and Thor-  
stein had many children betWixt them/ but few of  
them come into this tale. Skuli Was the eldest of  
their sons/ Rolf/ the second/ Egil the third.

Chapter



## Chapter ij. Of Thorstein's Dream.



Ne summer/ it is said/ a ship  
came from ober the main into  
Gufaros. Bergfinn Was he  
hight Who Was the master  
thereof/ a Northman of kin/  
rich in goods/ and someWhat  
stricken in years/ and a Wife  
man he Was Withal. Now/  
goodman Thorstein rode to the ship/ as it Was  
his wont mostly to rule the market/ and this he  
did now. The Eastmen got housed/ but Thorstein  
took the master to himself/ for thither he prayed  
to go. Bergfinn Was of few Words throughout  
the Winter/ but Thorstein treated him Well. The  
Eastman had great joy of dreams. One day in  
spring-tide Thorstein asked Bergfinn if he Would  
ride With him up to Ha Wikfell/ Where at that time  
Was the Thing-stead of the Burg-firthers : for  
Thorstein had been told that the Walls of his  
booth had fallen in. The Eastman said he had good  
Will to go/ so that day they rode/ some three to-  
gether/ from home/ and the house-carles of Thora-  
stein Withal/ till they came up under Ha Wikfell to  
a farmstead called Foyholes. There dwelt a man  
of



of small Wealth called Atli/ Who Was Thors-  
stein's tenant. Thorstein bade him come and Work  
With them/ and Bring With him hoe and spade.  
This he did/ and When they came to the tofts of  
the booth/ they set to Work all of them/ and did  
out the Walls. The Weather Was hot With suna  
shine that day/ and Thorstein and the Eastman  
grew heaby: and When they had moored out the  
Walls/ those two sat doWn Within the tofts/ and  
Thorstein slept/ and fared ill in his sleep. The  
Eastman sat beside him/ and let him haVe his  
dream fully out/ and When he aWoke he Was much  
Wearied. Then the Eastman asked him What he  
had dreamt/ as he had had such an ill time of it in  
his sleep. Thorstein said/ Nay/ dreams betoken  
nought. But as they rode homeWard in the eVena-  
ing/ the Eastman asked him again What he had  
dreamt. Thorstein said/ If I tell thee the dream/  
then shalt thou unriddle it to me/ as it Verily is.  
The Eastman said he Would risk it. Then Thora-  
stein said: This Was my dream: for methought  
I Was at home at Burg standing outside the  
men's door/ and I looked up at the house-roof/  
and on the ridge I saW a Swan/ goodly and fair/  
and I thought it Was mine oWn/ and deemed it  
good beyond all things. Then I saW a great eagle  
[Weep

¶ Weep doWn from the mountains/ and fly thithera  
Ward and alight beside the Swan/ and chuckle oſer  
her lovingly: and methought the Swan ſeemed  
Well content therat: but I noted that the eagle  
Was blackeyed/ and that on him Were iron claws:  
Balian he ſeemed to me. After this I thought I  
ſaw another fowl come flying from the ſouth  
quarter/ and he/ too/ came hither to Burg/ and ſat  
doWn on the houſe beſide the Swan/ and Would ſain  
be fond With her. This alſo Was a mighty eagle.  
But ſoon I thought that the eagle firſt come  
ruffled up at the coming of the other. Then they  
fought fiercely and long/ and this I ſaw that both  
bled/ and ſuch Was the end of their play/ that each  
tumbled either Way doWn from the houſeroof/ and  
there they lay both dead. But the Swan ſat left  
alone/ drooping much/ and ſad of ſemblance. Then  
I ſaw a fowl fly from the Weſt: that Was a  
falcon/ and he ſat beſide the Swan and made fondly  
toWards her/ and they flew aWay both together  
into one and the ſame quarter/ and thereWith I  
awoke. But a dream of no mark this is/ he ſays/  
and Will in all likelihood betoken gales/ that they  
ſhall meet in the air from thoſe quarters Whence I  
deemed the fowl flew. The Eaſtman ſpoke: I  
deem it noWiſe ſuch/ ſaith he. Thorſtein ſaid/  
Make

make of the dream/ then/ What seemeth likeliest to thee/ and let me hear. Then said the Eastman: These birds are like to be fetches of men: but thy Wife sickens now/ and she will give birth to a Woman-child fair and lovely: and dearly thou wilt love her: but high-born men shall woo thy daughter/ coming from such quarters whence the eagles seemed to fly/ and shall love her with overweening love/ and shall fight about her/ and both lose their lives thereby. And thereafter a third man/ from the quarter whence came the falcon/ shall woo her/ and to that man shall she be wedded. Now/ I have unravelled thy dream/ and I think things will befall as I have said. Thorstein answered: An evil and unfriendly wife is the dream interpreted/ nor do I deem thee fit for the work of unriddling dreams. The Eastman said/ thou shalt find how it will come to pass. But when Thorstein estranged himself from the Eastman thenceforward/ and he left that summer/ and now he is out of the tale.

Chapter

### Chapter iij. Of the Birth and Fostering of Helga the Fair.

His summer ashorsteim got  
ready to ride to the ashing/ and  
spake to Iofrid his Wife before  
he Went from home. So is it/  
he says/ that thou art With  
child now/ but thy child shall  
be cast forth if thou bear a  
Woman: but nourished if it be

a man. Now/ at this time When all the land Was  
heathen/ it Was somewhat the wont of such men as  
had little Wealth/ and Were like to have many  
young children on their hands/ to have them cast  
forth/ but an evil deed it Was alWays deemed to  
be. And now/ When ashorsteim had said this/ Iofrid  
answers/ ashis is a Word all unlike thee/ such a  
man as thou art/ and surely to a Wealthy man  
like thee it Will not seem good that this should be  
done. ashorsteim answered: ashou knowest my  
mind/ and that no good Will hap if my Will be  
thwarted. So he rode to the ashing: but While he  
Was gone Iofrid gave birth to a Woman: child  
wondrous fair. ashe Women Would fain show her  
to the mother: she said there Was little need thereof/  
But

But had her shepherd ashortard called to her/ and  
spake to him: ashou shalt take my horse and  
saddle it/ and bring this child West to Herdholt/  
to ashorgerd/ Egil's daughter/ and pray her to  
nourish it secretly/ so that ashorsteim may not know  
therewof. For With such looks of love do I behold  
this child/ that surely I cannot bear to have it  
cast forth. Here are three marks of silver: have  
them in reward of thy Work: but West there ashora  
gerd Will get thee fare and food ower the sea.  
Then ashortard did her bidding: he rode With the  
child to Herdholt/ and gave it into ashorgerd's  
hands/ and she had it nourished at a tenant's of hers  
Who dwelt at Freedmansstead up in Hvama  
firth: but she got fare for ashortard north in  
Swingrimsfirth/ in Shell-creek/ and gave him  
meet outfit for his seafaring: he Went thence  
abroad/ and is now out of the story. Now When  
ashorsteim came home from the ashing/ Jostid told  
him that the child had been cast forth according to  
his Word/ but that the herdsman had fled away  
and stolen her horse. ashorsteim said that she had  
done Well/ and got himself another herdsman. So  
five Winters passed/ and this matter Was no Wise  
Watted af. Now in these days asharsteim rode to  
Herdholt/ being bidden there as guest of his  
bratther

Brother: in law / Olaf Peacock the son of Hofskuld /  
 Who Was then deemed to be the chief highest of  
 Worth among all men West there. Good cheer Was  
 made Thorstein / as Was like to be : and one day  
 at the feast it is said that Thorgerd sat in the high  
 seat talking With her brother Thorstein / While Olaf  
 Was talking to other men : but on the bench right  
 over against them sat three little maidens. Then  
 said Thorgerd / How dost thou / brother / like the  
 look of these three little maidens sitting straight  
 before us. Right Well / he answered / but one is by  
 far the fairest : she has all the goodliness of Olaf /  
 but the Whiteness and the countenance of us / the  
 Mew-men. Thorgerd answered : Surely this is  
 true / brother / Wherein thou sayest that she has the  
 fairness and countenance of us Mew-folk / but the  
 goodliness of Olaf Peacock she has not got / for  
 she is not his daughter. How can that be / says  
 Thorstein / being thy daughter none the less. She  
 answered : To say sooth / kinsman / quoth she /  
 this fair maiden is not my daughter / but thine.  
 And there With she told him all as it had befallen /  
 and prayed him to forgive her and his own Wife  
 that trespass. Thorstein said : I cannot blame  
 you two for having done this : most things Will  
 fall as they are fated / and Well have ye covered

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over

offer my folly : so look I on this maiden that I  
deem it great good luck to have so fair a child.  
But now/ What is her name. Helga she is called/  
says Thorgerd. Helga the fair/ says Thorstein.  
But now shalt thou make her ready to come home  
With me. She did so/ and Thorstein Was led  
out With good gifts/ and Helga rode With him to  
his home/ and Was brought up there With much  
honour and great love from father and mother and  
all her kin.

Chapter iB. Of Sunnlaug Worm-tongue and his  
Kin.

Now at this time there dwelt  
at Silfbank/ up in White-  
Water-side/ Illugi the Black/  
son of Hallkel/ the son of  
Hroffkel. The mother of Il-  
lugi Was Thorid Dandle/  
daughter of Sunnlaug Worm-  
tongue. Illugi Was the next  
greatest chief in Harg-firth after Thorstein Egil-  
son. He Was a man of broad lands and hardy of  
mood/ and Wont to do Well to his friends : he had  
to Wife Ingibiorg/ the daughter of A/Bjorn Hord-  
son/



son/ from Ornolfsdale : the mother of Ingibiorg  
 Was Thorgerd/ the daughter of Midfirth/ Skeggi.  
 The children of Illugi and Ingibiorg Were many/  
 but few of them haue to do With this story. Her-  
 mund Was one of their sons/ and Sunnlaug ano-  
 ther : both Were hopeful men/ and at this time of  
 ripe growth. It is told of Sunnlaug that he Was  
 quick of growth in his early youth/ big/ and  
 strong : his hair Was light red/ and very goodly  
 of fashion : he Was dark-eyed/ somewhat ugly-  
 nosed/ yet of lofsome countenance : thin of flank he  
 Was/ and broad of shoulder/ and the best-brought  
 of men : his whole mind Was very masterful :  
 eager Was he from his youth up/ and in all wise  
 unsparing and hardy : he Was a great skald/ but  
 somewhat bitter in his rhyming/ and therefore  
 Was he called Sunnlaug Worm-tongue. Her-  
 mund Was the best-beloved of the two brothers/  
 and had the mien of a great man. When Sunn-  
 laug Was fifteen winters old he prayed his father  
 for goods to fare abroad withal/ and said he had  
 Will to trauel and see the manners of other folk.  
 Master Illugi Was slow to take the matter up/  
 and said he Was unlike to be deemed good in the  
 out-landes When I can scarcely shap thee to my  
 own liking at home. On a morning but a very  
 little

little after Wards it happened that Illugi came out early/ and saw that his store-house Was opened/ and that some sacks of Wares/ six of them/ had been brought out into the road/ and there Withal two some pack-gear. Now/ as he Wondered at this/ there came up a man leading four horses/ and Who should it be but his son Gunnlaug. Then said he : I it Was Who brought out the sacks. Illugi asked him Why he had done so. He said that they should make his faring goods. Illugi said : In no Wise shalt thou thwart my Will/ nor fare any Where sooner than I like : and in again he Wung the Ware-sacks there With. Then Gunnlaug rode thence and came in the evening down to Burg/ and Master Thorstein asked him to bide there/ and Gunnlaug Was fain of that proffer. He told Thorstein how things had gone betwixt him and his father/ and Thorstein offered to let him bide there as long as he liked/ and for some seasons Gunnlaug abode there/ and learned Law-craft of Thorstein/ and all men accounted Well of him. Now Gunnlaug and Helga Would be al Ways at the chess-playing together/ and very soon each found favour With the other/ as came to be proven Well enough after Wards : they Were very nigh of an age. Helga Was so fair/ that men of low say that

that she Was the fairest Woman of Iceland/ then  
or since: her hair Was so plenteous and long that  
it could cover her all over/ and it Was as fair as  
a band of gold: nor Was there any so good to  
choose as Helga the Fair in all Burgfirth/ and  
far and Wide elsewhere. Now one day/ as men sat  
in the hall at Burg/ Gunnlaug spake to Thor-  
stein: One thing in law there is Which thou hast  
not taught me/ and that is how to woo me a Wife.  
Thorstein said/ That is but a small matter/ and  
therewith taught him how to go about it. Then  
said Gunnlaug/ Now shalt thou try if I have  
understood all: I shall take thee by the hand and  
make as if I Were wooing thy daughter Helga.  
I see no need of that/ says Thorstein. Gunnlaug/  
however/ groped then and there after his hand/ and  
seizing it said/ Nay/ grant me this though. Do  
as thou wilt/ then/ said Thorstein: but be it  
known to all who are hereby that this shall be as  
if it had been unspeaken/ nor shall any guile follow  
herein. Then Gunnlaug named for himself Wit-  
nesses/ and betrothed Helga to him/ and asked  
thereafter if it Would stand good thus. Thorstein  
said that it Was Well: and those who Were present  
Were mightily pleased at all this.

## Chapter

## Chapter V. Of RaBen and his kin.

Here Was a man called Onund/ Who dWelt in the south at Mossfell : he Was the Wealsthiest of men/ and had a priesthood south there about the nesses. He Was married/ and his Wife Was called Geirny. She Was the daughter of

Gnup/ son of Mold: Gnup/ Who settled at Grindwick/ in the south country. Their sons Were RaBen/ and Thorarin/ and Eindridi : they Were all hopeful men/ but RaBen Was in all wise the first of them. He Was a big man and a strong/ the fightliest of men and a good skald : and When he Was fully grown he fared betWeen sundry landes/ and Was Well accounted of Wherever he came. Thorod the Sage/ the son of Eyvind/ dWelt in those days at Hjalli/ south in Olfus/ With Skapti his son/ Who Was then the spokesman at law in Jorland. The mother of Skapti Was Randrig/ daughter of Gnup/ the son of Mold: Gnup : and Skapti and the sons of Onund Were sisters' sons. BetWeen these kinsmen Was much friendship as Well as kinship. At this time Thorfin/ the son of Seltthorir/

Selthorir/dWelt at Red:Mel/and had seven sons/  
Who Were all the hopefulllest of men : and of them  
Were these : Thorgils/ Eyjolf/ and Thorir : and  
they Were all the greatest men out there. But these  
men Who have now been named lived all at one and  
the same time. Next to this befell those tidings/ the  
best that ever have befallen here in Iceland/ that the  
Whole land became Christian/ and that all folk  
cast off the old faith.

**Chapter vi. How Helga Was Wed to Gunn-  
laug/ and of Gunnlaug's faring abroad.**

Gunnlaug Worm-tongue Was/  
as is aforesaid/ Whiles at  
Burg With Thorstein/ Whiles  
With his father Illugi at  
Gilsbank/ three Winters to-  
gether/ and Was by now  
eighteen Winters old : and  
father and son Were now much  
more of a mind. There Was a man called Thorkel  
the Black : he Was a house-carle of Illugi/ and  
near akin to him/ and had been brought up in his  
house. To him fell an heritage north at Nes/ in  
Water-dale/ and he prayed Gunnlaug to go With  
him

him thither. This he did/ and so they rode/ the tWo  
together/ to As. There they got the fee: it Was  
given up to them by those Who had the keeping  
of it/ mostly because of Gunnlaug's fatherance.  
But as they rode from the north they guested at  
Grimstongue/ at a rich londer's Who dwelt there:  
but in the morning a herdsman took Gunnlaug's  
horse/ and it had sweated much by then he got it  
back. Then Gunnlaug smote the herdsman/ and  
stunned him: but the londer Would in no wise hear  
this/ and claimed boot therefor. Gunnlaug offered  
to pay him one mark. The londer thought it too  
little. Then Gunnlaug sang/

Gade I the middling mighty  
To have a mark of Wakes' flame:  
Sister of grey seas' glitter/  
This gift shalt thou make shift With.  
If the elf-sun of the Waters  
From out of purse thou lettest/  
O Waster of the Worm's bed/  
Awaits thee sorrow later.

So the peace Was made as Gunnlaug bade/ and  
in such wise the tWo rode south. Now/ a little  
while after/ Gunnlaug asked his father a second  
time for goods for going abroad. Illugi says/  
Now shalt thou have thy Will/ for thou hast  
brought

Brought thyself into something better than thou  
 wert. So Illugi rode hastily from home/ and  
 bought for Gunnlaug half a ship which lay in  
 Gufaros/ from Audun Festrargram : this Audun  
 was he who would not flit abroad the sons of Os-  
 wif the Wise/ after the slaying of Riartan Olaf-  
 son/ as is told in the story of the Laydalen-men :  
 which thing/ though/ betid later than this. And  
 when Illugi came home/ Gunnlaug thanked him  
 well. Thorkel the Black betook himself to sea-  
 faring with Gunnlaug/ and their wares were  
 brought to the ship : but Gunnlaug was at Burg  
 while they made her ready/ and found more cheer  
 in talk with Helga than in toiling with chapmen.  
 Now one day Thorstein asked Gunnlaug if he  
 would ride to his horses with him up to Long-  
 Waterdale. Gunnlaug said he would. So they  
 ride both together till they come to the mountain-  
 dairies of Thorstein/ called Thorgilsstead. There  
 were stud-horses of Thorstein/ four of them to-  
 gether/ all red of hue. There was one horse very  
 goodly/ but little tried : this horse Thorstein of-  
 fered to give to Gunnlaug. He said he was in no  
 need of horses/ as he was going away from the  
 country : and so they ride to other stud-horses.  
 There was a grey horse with four mares/ and he



Was the best of horses in Burgfirth. This one also  
Thorstein offered to give Gunnlaug/ but he said/  
I desire these in no wise more than the others :  
but Why dost thou not bid me What I Will take.  
What is that/ said Thorstein. Helga the fair/  
thy daughter/ says Gunnlaug. That we is not  
to be settled so hastily/ said Thorstein : and there-  
withal got on other talk. And now they ride  
homewards down along Long-water. Then said  
Gunnlaug/ I must needs know What thou wilt  
answer me about the wooing. Thorstein an-  
swers : I heed not thy vain talk/ says he.  
Gunnlaug says/ This is my whole mind/ and no  
vain words. Thorstein says/ Thou shouldest first  
know thine own Will. Art thou not bound to fare  
abroad/ and yet thou makest as if thou wouldest go  
marry. Neither art thou an even match for Helga  
while thou art so unsettled/ and therefore this can-  
not so much as be looked at. Gunnlaug says/  
Where lookest thou for a match for thy daughter/  
if thou wilt not give her to the son of Alugi the  
Black : or Who are they throughout Burg-firth  
Who are of more note than he. Thorstein an-  
swers : I Will not play at men-mating/ says  
he/ but if thou wert such a man as he is/ thou  
wouldest not be turned away. Gunnlaug said/  
To

To Whom Wilt thou give thy daughter rather than  
 to me. Said Thorstein/ Hereabout are many good  
 men to choose from. Thorfin of Red-Mel hath seven  
 sons/ and all of them men of good manners.  
 Gunnlaug answers/ Neither Onund nor Thorfin  
 are men as good as my father. Nay/ thou thyself  
 clearlyallest short of him/ or What hast thou to  
 set against his strife With Thorgrim the Priest/ the  
 son of Riakk and his sons at Thorsness Thing/  
 Where he carried all that Was in debate. Thorstein  
 answers/ I drake a Way Steinar/ the son of  
 Onund Sioni/ Which Was deemed somewhat of a  
 deed. Gunnlaug says/ Therewin thou wast holpen  
 by thy father Egil : and/ to end all/ it is for few  
 bonders to cast a Way my alliance. Said Thorstein/  
 Carry thy coming a Way to the fellows up yonder  
 at the mountains : for down here/ on the Mews/ it  
 shall avail thee nought. Now in the evening they  
 come home : but next morning Gunnlaug rode up  
 to Gilsbank/ and prayed his father to ride With  
 him a-Wooing out to Burg. Illugi answered/  
 Thou art an unsettled man/ being bound for faring  
 abroad/ but makest now as if thou wouldst busy  
 thyself With Wife-Wooing : and so much do I  
 know/ that this is not to Thorstein's mind. Gunn-  
 laug answers/ I shall go abroad all the same/

c ij

nor

nor shall I be Well pleased but if thou further  
this. So after this Illugi rode With eleven men  
from home doWn to Burg/ and Thorstein greeted  
him Well. Early in the morning Illugi said to  
Thorstein/ I Would speak to thee. Let us go/  
then/ to the top of the Burg/ and talk together  
there/ says Thorstein: and so they did/ and Gunn-  
laug Went With them. Then said Illugi/ my  
kinsman Gunnlaug tells me that he has begun a  
talk With thee on his oWn behalf/ praying that he  
might Woo thy daughter Helga: but now I  
Would fain know What is like to come of this  
matter. His kin is knowN to thee/ and our pos-  
sessions: from my hand shall be spared neither land  
nor rule oVer men/ if such things might perchance  
further matters. Thorstein said/ Herein alone  
Gunnlaug pleases me not/ that I find him an  
unsettled man: but if he Were of a mind like thine/  
little Would I hang back. Illugi said/ It Will  
cut our friendship across if thou gainsayest me and  
my son an equal match. Thorstein answered/ For  
thy Words and our friendship then/ Helga shall be  
to Wed/ but not betrothed/ to Gunnlaug/ and shall  
bide for him three Winters: but Gunnlaug shall  
go abroad and shape himself to the Ways of good  
men: but I shall be free from all these matters if he  
does

does not come back then/ or if his Ways are not  
to my liking. Therat they parted : Illugi rode  
home/ but Gunnlaug rode to his ship. But When  
they had Wind at Will they sailed for the main/ and  
made the northern part of NorWay/ and sailed  
landward along Thrandheim to Nidaros : there  
they rode in the harbour/ and unshipped their goods.

Chapter vij. Of Gunnlaug in the East and the  
West.

In those days Earl Eric/ the  
son of Hakon/ and his brother  
Stein/ ruled in NorWay.  
Earl Eric abode as then at  
Hladir/ Which Was left to him  
by his father/ and a mighty  
lord he Was. Skuli/ the son  
of Thorstein/ Was With the  
earl at that time/ and Was one of his court/ and  
Well esteemed. Now they say that Gunnlaug and  
Audun Jfestargram/ and seven of them together/  
Went up to Hladir to the earl. Gunnlaug Was so  
clad that he had on a grey kirtle and White long-  
hose : he had a boil on his foot by the instep/ and  
from this oozed blood and matter as he strode on.  
In this guise he Went before the earl With Audun  
and

and the rest of them/ and greeted him Well. The earl  
knew Audun/ and asked him tidings from Jar-  
land. Audun told him What there Was to Ward.  
Then the earl asked Gunnlaug Who he Was/ and  
Gunnlaug told him his name and kin. Then the  
earl said : Skuli Thorstein's son/ What manner  
of man is this in Jarland. Lord/ says he/ give  
him good Welcome/ for he is the son of the best man  
in Jarland/ Illugi the Black of Silfbank/ and  
my foster-brother Withal. The earl asked/ What  
ails thy foot/ Jarlander. A boil/ lord/ said he.  
And yet thou Wentest not halt. Gunnlaug an-  
swers/ Why go halt While both legs are long  
alike. Then said one of the earl's men/ called  
Thorir : He swaggeth hugely/ this Jarlander.  
It Would not be amiss to try him a little. Gunn-  
laug looked at him and sang :

A courtman there is  
Full evil I wis/  
A bad man and black/  
Belief let him lack.

Then Would Thorir seize an ape. The earl spake :  
Let it be/ says he : to such things men should pay  
no heed. But now/ Jarlander/ how old a man art  
thou. Gunnlaug answers : I am eighteen Win-  
ters old as now/ says he. Then says Earl Eric/  
my

My spell is that thou shalt not live eighteen winters more. Gunnlaug said/ somewhat under his breath: Pray not against me/ but for thyself rather. The earl asked thereat/ What didst thou say/ Icelandic. Gunnlaug answered/ What I thought well befitting/ that thou shouldst bid no prayers against me/ but pray well for thyself rather. What prayers/ then/ says the earl. That thou mightest not meet thy death after the manner of Earl Hakon/ thy father. The earl turned red as blood/ and bade them take the rascal in haste: but Skuli stepped up to the earl/ and said: Do this for my words/ lord/ and give this man peace/ so that he depart at his wisest. The earl answered/ At his wisest let him be off then/ if he will have peace/ and never let him come again within my realm. Then Skuli went out with Gunnlaug down to the bridges/ where there was an England-bound ship ready to put out: therein Skuli got for Gunnlaug a berth/ as well as for Thorkel/ his kinsman: but Gunnlaug gave his ship into Audun's ward/ and so much of his goods as he did not take with him. Now sail Gunnlaug and his fellows into the English main/ and come at autumn-tide south to London Bridge/ where they hauled ashore their ship. Now at that time King Ethelred/ the son of  
Edgar/

Edgar/ ruled oſer England/ and Was a good  
lord: this Winter he ſat in London. But in thoſe  
days there Was the ſame tongue in England as in  
Norway and Denmark: but the tongues changed  
When William the Baſtard Won England/ for  
thencefor Ward French Went current there/ for he  
Was of French kin. Gunnlaug Went preſently to  
the king/ and greeted him Well and Worthily. The  
king aſked him from What land he came/ and Gunns  
laug told him all as it Was. But/ ſaid he/ I  
haſe come to meet thee/ lord/ for that I haſe made  
a ſong on thee/ and I Would that it might pleaſe  
thee to hearken to that ſong. The king ſaid it  
ſhould be ſo/ and Gunnlaug gaſe forth the ſong  
Well and proudly: and this is the Burden thereof:

As God are all folk fearing  
The free lord king of England/  
King of all kings and all folk/  
To Ethelred the head low.

The king thanked him for the ſong/ and gaſe him  
as ſong: we Ward a ſcarlet cloak lined With the coſt-  
lieſt of furs/ and goldenſembroidered down to the  
hem: and made him his man: and Gunnlaug Was  
With him all the Winter/ and Was Well accounted  
of. One day/ in the morning early/ Gunnlaug met  
three men in a certain ſtreet/ and Thororm Was the  
name



name of their leader : he was big and strong/ and  
 right evil to deal with. He said/ Northman/ lend  
 me some money. Gunnlaug answered/ That  
 were ill counselled to lend one's money to un-  
 known men. He said/ I will pay it thee back  
 on a named day. Then shall it be risked/ says  
 Gunnlaug: and he lent him the fee withal. But  
 some time afterwards Gunnlaug met the king/  
 and told him of the money-lending. The king an-  
 swered/ Now hast thou thriven little/ for this is  
 the greatest robber and reifer : deal with him in no  
 wise/ but I will give thee money as much as thine  
 was. Gunnlaug said/ Then do we/ your men/ do  
 after a forty sort/ if/ treading sackless folk under  
 foot/ we let such fellows as this deal us out our  
 lot. Nay/ that shall never be. Soon after he met  
 Thororm and claimed the fee of him. He said he  
 was not going to pay it. Then sang Gunnlaug:—  
 Evil counselled art thou/  
 Gold from us withholding :  
 The reddener of the edges/  
 Pricking on with tricking.  
 Wot ye what : they called me/  
 Worm-tongue/ yet a youngling :  
 Nor for nought so hight I :  
 Now is time to show it.

di

Now

Now I Will make an offer good in law/ says  
Gunnlaug : that thou either pay me my money/  
or else that thou go on holm With me in three  
nights space. Then laughed the Viking/ and said/  
Before thee none have come to that/ to call me to  
holm/ despite of all the ruin that many a man has  
had to take at my hands. Well/ I am ready to go.  
Then they parted for that time. Gunnlaug told  
the king what had befallen : and he said/ Now/  
indeed/ have things taken a right hopeless turn :  
for this man's eyes can dull any Weapon. But  
thou shalt follow my rede : here is a sword I  
Will give thee—With that thou shalt fight/ but  
before the battle show him another. Gunnlaug  
thanked the king well therefor. Now when they  
were ready for the holm/ Thororm asked what sort  
of a sword it was that he had. Gunnlaug un-  
sheathed it and showed him/ but had a blow wound  
the handle of the king's sword/ and slipped it over  
his hand : the berserk looked on the sword/ and  
said/ I fear not that sword. But now he dealt  
a blow on Gunnlaug with his sword/ and cut  
off from him nigh all his shield : Gunnlaug smote  
in turn with the king's gift : the berserk stood  
shieldless before him/ thinking he had the same  
Weapon which he had shown him/ but Gunnlaug  
smote

smote him his death-blow then and there. The king  
thanked him for this work/ and he got much fame  
therefor/ both in England and far and wide else-  
where. In the spring/ when ships sailed from land  
to land/ Gunnlaug prayed King Ethelred for  
leave to sail some whither: the king asks what he  
was about then. Gunnlaug said/ I would fulfil  
what I have given my word to do/ and sang this  
stake withal:—

My ways must I be wending  
Three kings' walls to see yet/  
And earls' t'wain/ as I promised  
Ere while to land-sharers.

Neither will I wend me  
Back/ the worms'-bed lacking/  
By war-lord's son/ the wealth-free/  
For work done gift well given.

So he it/ then/ skald/ said the king/ and withal  
he gave him a ring that weighed six ounces: but/  
said he/ thou shalt give me thy word to come back  
next autumn/ for I will not let thee go alto-  
gether/ because of thy great prowess.

## Chapter viij. Of Gunnlaug in Ireland.

Hewafter Gunnlaug sailed  
from England With Chap-  
men north to Dublin. In  
those days King Sigtrygg  
Silky-beard/ son of King  
Olaf Roraran and Queen  
Rormlada/ ruled ower Ire-  
land : and he had then borne

Way but a little While. Gunnlaug Went before  
the king/ and greeted him Well and Worthily.  
The king received him as Was meet. Then Gunn-  
laug said/ I have made a song on thee/ and I  
Would fain have silence therefor. The king an-  
swered/ No men have before now come for Ward  
With songs for me/ and surely Will I hearken to  
thine. Then Gunnlaug brought the song/ Whereof  
this is the burden/—

Swari's steed

Doth Sigtrygg feed.

And this is therein also :—

Praise-Worth I can

Well measure in man/

And kings/ one by one—

Lo here/ Roraran's son :

Endeth

**Budgeth the king**

**Gift of gold ring :**

**I/ singer/ know**

**His Wont to bestow.**

**Let the high king say/**

**Heard he or this day/**

**Song drapuz=measure**

**Dearer a treasure.**

The king thanked him for the song/ and called his treasurer to him/ and said/ How shall the song be rewarded. What hast thou Will to give/ lord/ says he. How Will it be rewarded if I give him two ships for it/ said the king. Then said the treasurer/ This is too much/ lord : other kings give in reward of songs good keepsakes/ fair words/ or golden rings. So the king gave him his own raiment of new scarlet/ a gold-embroidered kirtle/ and a cloak lined with choice furs/ and a gold ring which weighed a mark. Gunnlaug thanked him well. He dwelt a short time here/ and then went thence to the Orkneys. Then was lord in Orkney/ Earl Sigurd/ the son of Hlodder : he was friendly to Icelanders. Now Gunnlaug greeted the Earl well/ and said he had a song to bring him. The Earl said he would listen thereto/ since he was of such great kin in Iceland.

Island. Then Gunnlaug brought the song : it  
Was a shorter lay/ and Well done. The Earl  
gave him for lay-reward a broad axe/ all inlaid  
With silver/ and bade him abide With him. Gunn-  
laug thanked him both for his gift and his offer/  
but said he Was bound east for Sweden : and  
thereafter he Went on board ship With chapmen  
Who sailed to Norway. In the autumn they came  
east to King's Cliff/ Thorkel/ his kinsman/ being  
With him all the time. From King's Cliff they  
got a guide up to West Gothland/ and came upon  
a cheaping-stead/ called Skarir : there ruled an  
earl called Sigurd/ a man stricken in years.  
Gunnlaug Went before him/ and told him he had  
made a song on him : the earl gave a Willing ear  
hereto/ and Gunnlaug brought the song/ Which  
Was a shorter lay. The earl thanked him/ and  
rewarded the song Well/ and bade him abide there  
that Winter. Earl Sigurd had a great Pule-feast  
in the Winter/ and on Pule-se came thither men  
sent from Earl Eric of Norway/ twelve of them  
together/ and brought gifts to Earl Sigurd.  
The earl made them good cheer/ and bade them  
sit by Gunnlaug through the Pule-tide : and there  
Was great mirth at drinks. Now the Goth-  
landers said that no earl Was greater or of more  
fame

same than Earl Sigurd : but the Norwegians  
thought that Earl Eric was by far the foremost  
of the two. Heron would they bandy words/  
till they both took Gunnlaug to be umpire in the  
matter. Then he sang this stake :—

Tell ye/ stakes of spear-din/  
How on sleek-side sea-horse  
Oft this earl hath proven  
Over-toppling billows :  
But Eric/ Victory's ash-tree/  
Oft hath seen in east-seas  
More of high blue billows  
Before the bows a-roaring.

Both sides were content with his finding/ but the  
Norwegians the best. But after Yule-tide those  
messengers left with gifts of goodly things/  
which Earl Sigurd sent to Earl Eric. Now  
they told Earl Eric of Gunnlaug's finding : the  
earl thought that he had shown upright dealing  
and friendship to him herein/ and let out some  
words/ saying that Gunnlaug should have good  
peace throughout his land. What the earl had said  
came thereafter to the ears of Gunnlaug. But  
now Earl Sigurd gave Gunnlaug a guide east  
to Tenthland/ in Sweden/ as he had asked.

Chapter



says he/ how is the song done. Right Well/ he  
 answered: it is a song full of big Words and  
 little beauty: a somewhat rugged song/ as is  
 Gunnlaug's own mood. Well/ Raven/ thy song/  
 said the king. Raven gave it forth/ and when it  
 was done the king said/ How is this song made/  
 Gunnlaug. Well it is/ lord/ he said: this is a  
 pretty song/ as is Raven himself to behold/ and  
 delicate of countenance. But why didst thou make  
 a short song on the king/ Raven. Didst thou per-  
 chance deem him unworthy of a long one. Raven  
 answered/ Let us not talk longer on this: mat-  
 ters will be taken up again/ though it be later.  
 And thereat they parted. Soon after Raven he  
 came a man of King Olaf's/ and asked him leave  
 to go away. This the king granted him. And  
 when Raven was ready to go/ he spake to Gunn-  
 laug/ and said/ Now shall our friendship be ended/  
 for that thou must needs shame me here before great  
 men: but in time to come I shall cast on thee no  
 less shame than thou hadst will to cast on me here.  
 Gunnlaug answered: Thy threats grieve me  
 nought. Nowhere are we likely to come where I  
 shall be thought less worthy than thou. King  
 Olaf gave to Raven good gifts at parting/ and  
 thereafter he went away.

Chapter

Chapter v. How Raven came home to Jærland/  
and asked for Helga to Wife.



ON this spring Raven came  
from the east to Thrandheim/  
and fitted out his ship/ and  
sailed in the summer to Jærland. He brought his ship to  
Leirudag/ below the Heath/  
and his friends and kinsmen  
were right fain of him. That  
winter he was at home with his father/ but the  
summer after he met at the Althing his kinsman/  
Skapti the law-man. Then said Raven to him/  
Thine aid would I have to go a-wooing to Thor-  
stein Egilsson/ to bid Helga his daughter. Skapti  
answered/ But is she not already wed to  
Gunnlaug Worm-tongue. Said Raven/ Is not  
the appointed time of waiting between them passed  
by. And far too wanton is he withal/ that he  
should hold or heed it aught. Let us then do as  
thou wouldst/ said Skapti. Thereafter they went  
with many men to the booth of Thorstein Egilsson/  
and he greeted them well. Then Skapti spoke:  
Raven my kinsman/ is minded to woo thy  
daughter Helga. Thou knowest well his blood/  
e ij his

his Wealth/ and his good manners/ his many  
mighty kinsmen and friends. Thorstein said/ She  
is already the loved maiden of Gunnlaug/ and  
With him shall I hold all Words spoken. Skapti  
said/ Are not the three Winters Worn now that  
Were named between you. Yes/ said Thorstein:  
but the summer is not yet Worn/ and he may still  
come out this summer. Then Skapti said/ But  
if he cometh not this summer/ What hope may We  
have of the matter then. Thorstein answered/ We  
are like to come here next summer/ and then may  
We see What may wisely be done/ but it Will not  
do to speak hereof longer as at this time. Thereon  
they parted. And men rode home from the Althing.  
But this talk of Raven's Wooing of Helga Was  
nought hidden. That summer Gunnlaug came not  
out. The next summer/ at the Althing/ Skapti  
and his folk pushed the Wooing eagerly/ and said  
that Thorstein Was free as to all matters With  
Gunnlaug. Thorstein answered/ I have few  
daughters to see to/ and fain am I that they  
shoul'd not be the cause of strife to any man. Now  
I Will first see Illugi the Black. And so he did.  
And When they met/ he said to Illugi/ Dost thou  
not think that I am free from all troth With thy  
son Gunnlaug. Illugi said/ Surely/ if thou  
Willest

Willest it. Little can I say herin/ as I do not  
 know clearly what Gunnlaug is about. Then  
 Thorstein went to Skapti/ and a bargain was  
 struck that the wedding should be at Burg/ about  
 winter-nights/ if Gunnlaug did not come out that  
 summer: but that Thorstein should be free from  
 all troth with Raven if Gunnlaug should come and  
 fetch his bride. After this men ride home from the  
 thing/ and Gunnlaug's coming was long drawn  
 out. But Helga thought evilly of all these weds.

Chapter vi. Of how Gunnlaug must needs abide  
 away from Iceland.



Now it is to be told of Gunn-  
 laug that he went from Swe-  
 den the same summer that  
 Raven went to Iceland/ and  
 good gifts he had from King  
 Olaf at parting. King Ethel-  
 red welcomed Gunnlaug wor-  
 thily/ and that winter he was  
 with the king/ and was held in great honour. In  
 those days Knut the Great/ son of Stein/ ruled  
 Denmark/ and had new-taken his father's heri-  
 tage/ and he would ever to wage war on England/  
 for

for that his father had Won a great realm there  
before he died West in that same land. And at that  
time there Was a great army of Danish men West  
there/ Whose chief Was Heming/ the son of Earl  
Strut-Harald/ and brother to Earl Sigvaldi/ and  
he held for King Knut that land that Stein had  
Won. Now in the spring Gunnlaug asked the  
king for leave to go aWay/ but he said/ It ill be-  
seems that thou/ my man/ shouldst go aWay now/  
When all lodes such mighty War in the land.  
Gunnlaug said/ Thou shalt rule/ lord: but give  
me leave next summer to depart/ if the Danes come  
not. The king answered/ Then We shall see. Now  
this summer Went by/ and the next Winter/ but  
no Danes came: and after midsummer Gunnlaug  
got his leave to depart from the king/ and Went  
thence east to NorWay/ and found Earl Eric in  
Ebrandheim/ at Gladir/ and the earl greeted him  
Well/ and bade him abide With him. Gunnlaug  
thanked him for his offer/ but said he Would first  
go out to Iceland/ to look to his promised maiden.  
The earl said/ Now all ships bound for Iceland  
have sailed. Then said one of the court/ Here lay/  
yesterday/ Hallfred Troublous-Skald/ out under  
Agdaness. The earl answered/ That may Well  
be: he sailed hence five nights ago. Then Earl Eric  
had

had Gunnlaug rowed out to Hallfred/ Who greeted  
him With joy: and forth With a fair Wind bore  
them from land/ and they Were right merry. This  
Was late in the summer: but now Hallfred said  
to Gunnlaug/ Hast thou heard of how Raven/  
the son of Onund/ is wooing Helga the Fair.  
Gunnlaug said he had heard thereof/ but dimly.  
Hallfred tells him all he knew of it/ and there With/  
two/ that it Was the talk of many men that Raven  
Was in no wise less brave a man than Gunnlaug.  
Then Gunnlaug sang this stake:—  
Light the Weather Wasterth:  
But if this east Wind drifted  
Week-long/ Wild upon us  
Little Were I recking:  
More this Word I mind of  
me With Raven mated/  
Than gain for me the gold-foe  
Of days to make me grey-haired.  
Then Hallfred said/ Well/ fellow/ may'st thou fare  
better in thy strife With Raven than I did in mine.  
I brought my ship some Winters ago into Leirur-  
rag/ and had to pay a half-mark in silver to a  
house-carle of Raven's/ but I held it back from  
him. So Raven rode at us With sixty men/ and  
cut the moorings of the ship/ and she Was driven  
up

up on the thalldes/ and we were bound for a  
wreck. Then I had to give selfdoom to Raven/  
and a whole mark I had to pay: and that is the  
tale of my dealings with him. Then they two  
talked together alone of Helga the fair/ and  
Gunnlaug praised her much for her goodness:  
and Gunnlaug sang:—  
He who brand of battle  
Heareth o'er-wary/  
Never love shall let him  
Hold the linen-folded:  
For we when we were younger  
In many a way were playing  
On the outwardness  
From golden land outstanding.  
Well sung: said Hallfred.

Chapter

Chapter vij. Of Sunnlaug's landing/ and how  
he found Helga Wedded to Ræven.

They made land north by Foz-  
plain/ in Traunkaen/ half  
a month before Winter/ and  
there unshipped their goods.  
Now there Was a man called  
Thord/ a bonders son of the  
plain/ there. He fell to wrest-  
ling With the chapmen/ and  
they mostly got Worsted at his hands. Then a  
Wrestling Was settled bet Ween him and Sunnlaug.  
The night before Thord made to We to Thor for the  
Victory: But the next day/ When they met/ they  
fell to Wrestling. Then Sunnlaug tripped both feet  
from under Thord/ and gave him a great fall: But  
the foot that Sunnlaug stood on Was put out of  
joint/ and Sunnlaug fell together With Thord.  
Then said Thord/ Maybe that other things go no  
better for thee. What then: says Sunnlaug.  
Thy dealings With Ræven/ if he Wed Helga the  
fair at Winter nights. I Was anigh at the  
thing When that Was settled last summer. Sunn-  
laug answered naught thereto. Now the foot Was  
washed/ and put into joint again/ and it Welled  
fi mightily



mightily: but he and Hallfred ride tWelke in  
company till they come to Gilsbank/ in Burg-  
firth/ the very Saturday night When folk sat at  
the Wedding at Burg. Illugi Was fain of his son  
Gunnlaug and his fellows: but Gunnlaug said  
he Would ride then and there doWn to Burg. Illugi  
said it Was not Wise to do so/ and to all but Gunn-  
laug that seemed good. But Gunnlaug Was then  
unfit to Walk/ because of his foot/ though he Would  
not let that be seen. Therefore there Was no faring  
to Burg. On the morrow Hallfred rode to Hreda-  
Water/ in North-Water dale/ Where Galti/ his  
brother and a brisk man/ managed their matters.

**Chapter viij. Of the Winter-Wedding at Skaney/  
and how Gunnlaug gave the King's Elbak to  
Helga.**

Ells the tale of Raven/ that  
he sat at his Wedding-feast at  
Burg/ and it Was the talk of  
most men that the bride Was  
but drooping: for true is the  
saW that faith/ Long We re-  
member What youth gained  
us/ and even so it Was With  
her now. But this new thing hefell at the feast/  
that

that Hungerd/ the daughter of Thorod and Iofrid/  
 Was wooed by a man named Sterting/ the son  
 of Haft:Biorn/ the son of Mold:Gnup/ and the  
 Wedding Was to come off that Winter after Yule/  
 at Skaney/ Where dwelt Thorkel/ a kinsman of  
 Hungerd/ and son of Torfi Walbrandsson : and  
 the mother of Torfi Was Thorodda/ the sister of  
 Odd of the Tongue. Now Raben Went home to  
 Mossfell With Helga his Wife. When they had been  
 there a little While/ one morning early before they  
 rose up/ Helga Was awake/ but Raben slept/ and  
 fared ill in his sleep. And When he Woke Helga  
 asked him What he had dreamt. Then Raben sang :  
 In thine arms/ so dreamed I/  
 HeWn Was I/ gold island.  
 Bride/ in blood I bled there/  
 Bed of thine Was reddened.  
 Never more then mightst thou/  
 Mead:swols' power speedy/  
 Wind my gashes bloody—  
 Lind:leek:bough thou lik'st it.  
 Helga spake : Never shall I Weep therefor/ quoth  
 she : ye have evilly beguiled me/ and Gunnlaug  
 has surely come out. And thereWith she Wept  
 much. But/ a little after/ Gunnlaug's coming  
 Was bruited about/ and Helga became so hard  
 With

With RaBen/ that he could not keep her at home  
at Mosfell: so that back they had to go to Burg/  
and RaBen got small share of her company. Now  
men get ready for the Winter-Wedding. Thorkel  
of Skaney bade Illugi the Black and his sons.  
But When master Illugi got ready/ Gunnlaug  
sat in the hall/ and stirred not to go. Illugi Went  
up to him and said/ Why dost thou not get ready/  
kinsman. Gunnlaug answered/ I have no mind  
to go. Says Illugi/ Nay/ but certes thou shalt  
go/ kinsman/ says he: and cast thou not grief  
over thee by yearning for one Woman. Make as  
if thou knewest nought of it/ for Women thou wilt  
never lack. Now Gunnlaug did as his father  
bade him: so they came to the Wedding/ and Illugi  
and his sons Were set down in the high seat: but  
Thorstein Egilsson/ and RaBen his son-in-law/  
and the bridegroom's following/ Were set in the  
other high seat/ over against Illugi. The Women  
sat on the dais/ and Helga the Fair sat next to  
the bride. Oft she turned her eyes on Gunnlaug/  
thereby proving the saw/ Eyes Will betray if  
maid love man. Gunnlaug Was Well arrayed/  
and had on him that goodly raiment that King  
Sigtrygg had given him: and now he Was  
thought far above all other men/ because of many  
things/

things/ both strength/ and goodliness/ and growth.  
There was little mirth among folk at this wedding.  
But on the day when all men were making  
ready to go away the women stood up and got  
ready to go home. Then went Gunnlaug to talk  
to Helga/ and long they talked together: but  
Gunnlaug sang:—

Light-heart liked the worm-tongue

All day long no longer

In mountain-home/ since Helga

Had name of Wife of Raven:

Nought forsaW thy father/

Gardener White of fight-thaw/

What my words should come to.

The maid to gold was wedded.

And again he sang:

Worst reward I owe them/

Father thine/ O wine-may/

And mother/ that they made thee

So fair beneath thy maid-gear:

For thou/ sweet field of sea-flame/

All joy hast slain within me.

Lo/ here/ take it/ loveliest

E're made of lord and lady.

And therewith Gunnlaug gave Helga the cloak/

Ethelred's gift/ which was the fairest of things/

and

and He thanked him Well for the gift. Then  
 Gunnlaug Went out/ and by that time riding/  
 horses had been brought home and saddled/ and  
 among them Were many Very good ones : and  
 they Were all tied up in the road. Gunnlaug leaps  
 on to a horse/ and rides a hand-gallop along the  
 homefield up to a place Where Raven happened to  
 stand just before him : and Raven had to draw  
 out of his Way. Then Gunnlaug said/ No need to  
 flink aback/ Raven/ for I threaten thee nought  
 as at this time : but thou knowest forsooth/ What  
 thou hast earned. Raven answered and sang/—  
 God of Wound-flames' glitter/  
 Elbrier of fight-goddess/  
 Must We fall as fighting  
 For fairest kirtle-bearer.  
 Death-staff/ many such-like  
 Fair as she is are there  
 In south-lands o'er the sea-floods.  
 Sooth saith he Who knoweth.  
 Maybe there are many such/ but they do not seem  
 so to me/ said Gunnlaug. Therewith Illugi and  
 Thorstein ran up to them/ and Would not have  
 them fight. Then Gunnlaug sang/—  
 The fair-hued golden goddess  
 For gold to Raven sold they/

(Raven)

(Raven my match as men say)  
While the mighty isle-king/  
Ethelred/ in England  
From eastward Way delayed me/  
Wherefore to gold-Waster  
Waneth tongue's speech-hanger.  
Hereafter both rode home/ and all Was quiet and  
tidingleſs that Winter through : but Raven had  
nought of Helga's fellowſhip after her meeting  
With Gunnlaug.

Chapter vii. Of the Holmgang at the Althing.

OW in ſummer men ride a  
Very many to the Althing :  
Allugi the Black/ and his  
ſons With him/ Gunnlaug and  
Hermund : Thorſtein Egil-  
ſon and Kolſtein his ſon :  
Onund/ of Moſfell/ and his  
ſons all/ and Sverting/ Hafr-  
Biorn's ſon. Skapti yet held the ſpokeſmanſhip-  
at-law. One day at the Thing/ as men Went  
thronging to the Hill of Laws/ and When the  
matters of the law Were done there/ then Gunn-  
laug craked ſilence/ and ſaid : Is Raven/ the ſon  
of

of Onand/ here. He said he Was. Then spake  
 Gunnlaug/ Thou Well knowest that thou hast got  
 to Wife my afoWed Bride/ and thus hast thou made  
 thyself my foe. Now for this I bid thee to holm  
 here at the Thing/ in the holm of the Ape-Water/  
 When three nights are gone by. Raven anWers/  
 This is Well bidden/ as Was to be looked for of  
 thee/ and for this I am ready/ Whenever thou  
 Willest it. Now the kin of each deemed this a very  
 ill thing. But/ at that time it Was laWful for  
 him who thought himself Wronged by another to  
 call him to fight on the holm. So When three  
 nights had gone by they got ready for the holm-  
 gang/ and Illugi the Black folloWed his son  
 thither With a great folloWing. But Skapti/ the  
 laWman/ folloWed Raven/ and his father and  
 other kinsmen of his. Now before Gunnlaug  
 Went upon the holm he sang :  
 Out to isle of eel-field  
 Dight am I to hie me :  
 Gile/ O God/ thy finger  
 With glaive to end the striving.  
 Here shall I the head cleave  
 Of Helga's love's deceiver/  
 At last my bright sword bringeth  
 Sundering of head and body.

Then

Then Raven answered and sang :  
 Thou/ singer/ knowest not surely  
 Which of us twain shall gain it :  
 With edge for leg/ Wathe eager/  
 Here are the wound/ scythes bare now.  
 In whatso/ wise we wound us/  
 The tidings from the thing here/  
 And fame of thanes' fair doings/  
 The fair young maid shall hear it.  
 Hermund held shield for his brother/ Gunnlaug :  
 But Sverting/ Haste/ Biorn's son/ Was Raven's  
 shield/ bearer. Whoso should be wounded was to  
 ransom himself from the holm with three marks of  
 silver. Now/ Raven's part it was to deal the first  
 blow/ as he was the challenged man. He heved  
 at the upper part of Gunnlaug's shield/ and the  
 sword brake asunder just beneath the hilt/ with so  
 great might he smote : but the point of the sword  
 flew up from the shield and struck Gunnlaug's  
 cheek/ whereby he got just grazed : with that their  
 fathers ran in between them/ and many other men.  
 Now/ said Gunnlaug/ I call Raven overcome/  
 as he is weaponless. But I say that thou art  
 vanquished/ since thou art wounded/ said Raven.  
 Now/ Gunnlaug was nigh mad/ and very wrath/  
 ful/ and said it was not tried out yet. Illugi/ his  
 father/



father/ said they should try no more for that time.  
 Gunnlaug said/ Beyond all things I desire that  
 I might in such wise meet Raven again/ that  
 thou/ father/ Wert not anigh to part us. And  
 the next they parted for that time/ and all men went  
 back to their booths. But on the second day after  
 this it was made law in the law-court that/ hence-  
 forth/ all holmgangs should be forbidden: and  
 this was done by the counsel of all the wisest men  
 that were at the Thing: and there/ indeed/ were  
 all the men of most counsel in all the land. And  
 this was the last holmgang fought in Iceland/  
 this/ wherein Gunnlaug and Raven fought. But  
 this Thing was the third most thronged Thing  
 that has been held in Iceland: the first was  
 after Njal's burning/ the second after the Heath-  
 slaughters. Now/ one morning/ as the brothers  
 Hermund and Gunnlaug went to Nye-water to  
 wash/ on the other side went many women to wards  
 the river/ and in that company was Helga the  
 fair. Then said Hermund/ Dost thou see thy  
 friend Helga there on the other side of the river.  
 Surely/ I see her/ says Gunnlaug/ and withal  
 he sang:—  
 Born was she for men's sickering:  
 Sore bale hath brought the war-stem/  
 And

And I yearned ever madly  
 To hold that oak-tree golden.  
 To me then/ me destroyer  
 Of Swan-mead's flame/ unneedful  
 This looking on the dark-eyed/  
 This golden land's beholding.  
 There With they crossed the river/ and Helga and  
 Gunnlaug spake awhile together/ and as the bro-  
 thers crossed the river eastward back again/ Helga  
 stood and gazed long after Gunnlaug. Then  
 Gunnlaug looked back and sang :—  
 Moon of linen-lapped one/  
 Deek-sea-bearing goddess/  
 Hawk-keen out of heaven  
 Shone all bright upon me :  
 But that eyelid's moonbeam  
 Of gold-necklaced goddess  
 Her hath all undoing  
 Wrought/ and me made nought of.

Chapter xv. How Gunnlaug and Raen agreed  
to go East to Norway/ to try the matter again.

Now after these things Were  
gone by men rode home from  
the Thing/ and Gunnlaug  
dwelt at home at Gilsbank.  
On a morning When he awoke  
all men had risen up/ but he  
alone still lay abed: he lay  
in a shut-bed behind the seats.

Now into the hall came twelve men/ all full  
armed/ and Who should be there but Raen/  
Onund's son: Gunnlaug sprang up forthwith/  
and got to his Weapons. But Raen spake/  
Thou art in risk of no hurt this time/ quoth he/  
but my errand hither is What thou shalt now  
hear: Thou didst call me to a holmgang last sum-  
mer at the Althing/ and thou didst not deem mat-  
ters to be fairly tried therein: now I Will offer  
thee this/ that We both fare aWay from Iceland/  
and go abroad next summer/ and go on holm in  
Norway/ for there our kinsmen are not like to  
stand in our Way. Gunnlaug answered/ Hail  
to thy Words/ stoutest of men: this thine offer I  
take gladly: and here/ Raen/ mayest thou have  
cheer

cheer as good as thou mayest desire. It is Well  
offered/ said Raven/ but this time We shall first  
have to ride a Way. Thereon they parted. Now the  
kinsmen of both sore disliked them of this/ but  
could in no Wise undo it/ because of the Wrath of  
Gunnlaug and Raven: and/ after all/ that must  
betide that drew to Wards. Now it is to be said of  
Raven that he fitted out his ship in Leirudag: tWo  
men are named that Went With him/ sisters' sons  
of his father Onund/ one hight Grim/ the other  
Olaf/ doughty men both. All the kinsmen of Raven  
thought it great scathe When he Went a Way/ but  
he said he had challenged Gunnlaug to the holm-  
gang because he could have no joy for ever of Helga:  
and he said/ Withal/ that one must fall before the  
other. So Raven put to sea/ When he had Wind  
at Will/ and brought his ship to Thrandheim/ and  
Was there that Winter and heard nought of Gunn-  
laug that Winter through: there he abode him the  
summer following: and still another Winter Was  
he in Thrandheim/ at a place called Lifangr.  
Gunnlaug Worm-tongue took ship With Hallfred  
Troublous-Skald/ in the north at The Plain:  
they Were very late ready for sea. They sailed into  
the main When they had a fair Wind/ and made  
Orkney a little before the Winter. Earl Sigurd  
1043 Lodberfon

Roderick Was still lord o'er the isles/ and Gunn-  
laug Went to him and abode there that Winter/ and  
the earl held him of much account. In the spring  
the earl Would go on Warfare/ and Gunnlaug  
made ready to go With him: and that summer they  
harried Wide about the South-isles and Scotland's  
firthe/ and had many fights/ and Gunnlaug al-  
ways shewed himself the bravest and doughtiest  
of felloes/ and the hardiest of men Wherever they  
came. Earl Sigurd Went back home early in the  
summer/ but Gunnlaug took ship With chapmen/  
sailing for Norway/ and he and Earl Sigurd  
parted in great friendship. Gunnlaug sailed north  
to Thrandheim/ to Hladir/ to see Earl Eric/ and  
dwelt there through the early Winter: the earl  
Welcomed him gladly/ and made offer to Gunn-  
laug to stay With him/ and Gunnlaug agreed  
thereto. The earl had heard already how all had  
befallen betwene Gunnlaug and Raven/ and he  
told Gunnlaug that he laid ban on their fighting  
Within his realm: Gunnlaug said the earl should  
be free to have his Will herein. So Gunnlaug abode  
there the Winter through/ ever hearty of mood.

## Chapter

Chapter xvi. How the two foes met and fought  
at Dingness.

Now on a day in spring Gunn-  
laug was walking abroad/  
and his kinsman Thorkel  
with him: they walked a way  
from the town/ till on the  
meads before them they saw a  
ring of men/ and in that ring  
were two men with weapons  
fencing: but one was named Raven/ the other  
Gunnlaug/ while they who stood by said that  
Icelanders smote light/ and were slow to remem-  
ber their words. Gunnlaug saw the great mock-  
ing hereunder/ and much jeering was brought  
into the play: and withal he went a way silent.  
So a little while after he said to the earl that he  
had no mind to hear any longer the jeers and  
mocks of his courtiers about his dealings with  
Raven/ and therewith he prayed the earl to give  
him a guide to Lifangr: now before this the  
earl had been told that Raven had left Lifangr  
and gone east to Sweden: therefore/ he granted  
Gunnlaug leave to go/ and gave him two guides  
for the journey. Now Gunnlaug went from  
Gladir

Bladir With six men to Lifangr: and/ on the morning of the very day Whereas Gunnlaug came in in the evening/ RaBen had left Lifangr With four men. Thence Gunnlaug Went to Vera-dale/ and came al Ways in the evening to Where RaBen had been the night before. So Gunnlaug Went on till he came to the uppermost farm in the Valley/ called Sula/ Wherefrom had RaBen fared in the morning: there he stayed not his journey/ but kept on his Way through the night. Then in the morning at sun-rise they saw one another. RaBen had got to a place Where Were two Waters/ and between them flat meads/ and they are called Gleipni's meads: but into one Water stretched a little ness called Dingness. There on the ness RaBen and his fellows/ five together/ took their stand. With RaBen Were his kinsmen/ Grim and Olaf. Now When they met/ Gunnlaug said/ It is Well that We have found one another. RaBen said that he had nought to quarrel With them: But now/ says he/ thou mayest choose as thou wilt/ either that We fight alone together/ or that We fight all of us man to man. Gunnlaug said that either Way seemed good to him. Then spake RaBen's kinsmen/ Grim and Olaf/ and said that they Would little like to stand by and look on the fight/

fight/ and in like wise spake Thorkel the Black/  
 the kinsman of Gunnlaug. Then said Gunnlaug  
 to the earl's guides/ Ye shall sit by and aid neither  
 side/ and be here to tell of our meeting: and so  
 they did. So they set on/ and fought dauntlesly/  
 all of them. Grim and Olaf went both against  
 Gunnlaug alone/ and so closed their dealings with  
 him that Gunnlaug slew them both and got no  
 wound. This proves Thord Rolkemson in a song  
 that he made on Gunnlaug the Worm-tongue:  
 Grim and Olaf/ great hearts  
 In Gondul's din/ With him I word  
 First did Gunnlaug fell there  
 Ere at Raven fared he:  
 Bold/ With blood he-drifted  
 Hane of three the thane was:  
 War-lord of the Wake-horse  
 Wrought for men folks' slaughter.  
 Meanwhile Raven/ and Thorkel the Black/  
 Gunnlaug's kinsman/ fought until Thorkel fell  
 before Raven and lost his life: and so at last all  
 their fellowship fell. Then they two alone fought  
 together with fierce onsets and mighty strokes/  
 which they dealt each the other/ falling on furis-  
 ously without stop or stay. Gunnlaug had the  
 sword Ethelred's gift/ and that was the best of  
 weapons.



Weapons. At last Gunnlaug dealt a mighty blow  
at RaBen/ and cut his leg from under him: but  
none the more did RaBen fall/ but swung round up  
to a tree-stem/ whereat he steadied the stump. Then  
said Gunnlaug/ Now thou art no more meet for  
battle/ nor will I fight with thee any longer/ a  
maimed man. RaBen answered: So it is/ said  
he/ that my lot is now all the worse lot/ but it  
were well with me yet/ might I but drink some  
what. Gunnlaug said/ Hebray me not if I  
bring thee water in my helm. I will not hebray  
thee/ said RaBen. Then went Gunnlaug to a  
brook and fetched water in his helm/ and brought  
it to RaBen: but RaBen stretched forth his left  
hand to take it/ but with his right hand drew his  
sword into Gunnlaug's head/ and that was a  
mighty great wound. Then Gunnlaug said/  
Evill ye have thou beguiled me/ and done traitorously  
wherein I trusted thee. RaBen answered/ Thou  
sayest sooth/ but this brought me to it/ that I be-  
grudged thee to lie in the bosom of Helga the fair.  
Thereat they fought on/ recking of nought: but  
the end of it was that Gunnlaug overcame RaBen/  
and there RaBen lost his life. Then the earl's  
guides came forward and bound the head-wound  
of Gunnlaug/ and in meanwhile he sat and sang:

. . . . .

O thou Word-storm stirrer/  
 Raven/ stem of battle  
 Famous/ fared against me  
 Fiercely in the spear din.  
 Many a flight of metal  
 Was borne on me this morning/  
 By the spear-Walls' builder/  
 Ring-leaver/ on hard Dingness.  
 After that they buried the dead/ and got Gunn-  
 laug on to his horse thereafter/ and brought him  
 right down to Lifangr. There he lay three nights/  
 and got all his rights of a priest/ and died there-  
 after/ and was buried at the church there. All men  
 thought it great scathe of both of these men/ Gunn-  
 laug and Raven/ amid such deeds as they died.

Chapter xvij. The News of the Fight brought  
to Ireland.

OW this summer/ before these  
tidings were brought out his  
ther to Ireland/ Illugi the  
Black/ being at home at  
Gillbank/ dreamed a dream:  
he thought that Gunnlaug  
came to him in his sleep/ all  
bloody/ and he sang in the  
dream this stave before him: and Illugi remem-  
bered the song when he woke/ and sang it before  
others:

Knew I of the killing  
Of Raven's hilt-finned steel-fish  
Byrny-hearing—(Word-edge  
Sharp clake leg of Raven.  
Of Warm Wounds drank the eagle/  
When the War-rod slender/  
Cleaver of the corpses/  
Clake the head of Gunnlaug.

This portent befel south at Mossfell/ the self-  
same night/ that Onund dreamed how Raven  
came to him/ covered all over With blood/ and  
sang:

Red

Red is the [Word/ but I noW  
Am undone by SWord:Odin.  
'Gainst shields beyond the sea:flood  
The bane of shields Was Wielded.  
Methinks the blood:foWl blood:stained  
In blood o'er men's heads stood there/  
The Wound:erne yet Wound:eager  
Trod o'er Wounded bodies.  
NoW the second summer after this/ Illugi the  
Black spoke at the Althing from the Hill of  
LaWs/ and said: WhereWith wilt thou make  
atonement to me for my son/ Whom Raven/ thy  
son/ beguiled in his troth. Onund answered/ He  
it far from me to atone for him/ so sorely as their  
meeting hath Wounded me. Yet Will I not ask  
atonement of thee for my son. Then shall my  
Wrath come home to some of thy kin/ says Illugi.  
And Withal after the Thing Was Illugi at most  
times very sad. Tells the tale hoW this autumn  
Illugi rode from Gilsbank With thirty men/ and  
came to Mosfell early in the morning. Then  
Onund got into the church With his sons/ and took  
sanctuary: but Illugi caught two of his kin/ one  
called Biorn and the other Thorgrim/ and had  
Biorn slain/ but the feet smitten from Thorgrim.  
And thereafter Illugi rode home/and there Was no  
fighting

righting of this for Onund. Hermund/ Illugi's  
son/ had little joy after the death of Gunnlaug  
his brother/ and deemed he Was none the more  
avenged even though this had been brought. Now  
there Was a man called Raven/ brother's son to  
Onund of Mossfell: he Was a great sea-farer/  
and had a ship that lay up in Ramfirth: and in  
the spring Hermund Illugifson rode from home  
alone north o'er Holt-beacon Heath/ even to  
Ramfirth/ and out as far as Boardere to the  
ship of the chapmen. The chapmen Were then  
nearly ready for sea: Raven/ the ship-master/  
Was on shore/ and many men With him: Her-  
mund rode up to him/ and thrust him through With  
his spear/ and rode aWay forthWith: But all  
Raven's men Were bewildered at seeing Her-  
mund. No atonement came for this slaying/ and  
thereWith ended the dealings of Illugi the Black  
and Onund of Mossfell.

Chapter

## Chapter Viii. The Death of Helga the Fair.

Some time went on/ Thorstein  
Egilson married his daughter  
Helga to a man called Thor-  
kel/ son of Hallkel/ who lived  
West in Hraundale. Helga  
went to his house with him/  
but loved him little/ for she  
cannot cease to think of Gunn-  
laug/ though he be dead. Yet was Thorkel a  
doughty man/ and wealthy of goods/ and a good  
skald. They had children together not a few/ one  
of them was called Thorarin/ another Thorstein/  
and yet more they had. But Helga's chief joy  
was to pluck at the threads of that cloak/ Gunn-  
laug's gift/ and she would be ever gazing at it.  
But on a time there came a great sickness to the  
house of Thorkel and Helga/ and many were bed-  
ridden for a long time. Helga also fell sick/ and  
yet she could not keep abed. So one Saturday  
evening Helga sat in the fire-hall/ and leaned her  
head upon her husband's knees/ and had the cloak  
Gunnlaug's gift sent for: and when the cloak  
came to her she sat up and plucked at it/ and  
gazed thereon awhile/ and then sank back upon her

her husband's bosom/ and Was dead. Then Thor:  
kel sang this :  
Dead in mine arms she droopeth/  
My dear one/ gold-rings heavier/  
For God hath changed the life-days  
Of this Lady of the linen.  
Wearp pain hath pined her/  
But unto me/ the seeker  
Of hoard of fishes high way/  
Abiding here is Wearier.  
Helga Was buried in the church there/ but Thor:  
kel dwelt yet at Braundale : but a great matter  
seemed the death of Helga to all/ as Was to be  
looked for.

And here endeth the Story.

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